Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Thursday 29 Feb 2024 until 23:59 on Friday 01 Mar 2024

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 28 Feb 2024 at 13:30

Confidence: High for only scattered showers Thursday, then generally more unsettled from Friday with showers or longer periods of snow and low level rain. However, lowering for detail of worst of conditions.

Headline for Thursday 29 Feb 2024: By day brighter spells and some afternoon showers. Strong southwest summit winds.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 29 Feb 2024

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Medium Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Low Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m

Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy Rain	Partly cloudy (night)	Cloudy	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Light snow showers	Partly cloudy (night)	Light snow showers (night)
Precipitation probability							
90%	<05%	<05%	<05%	10%	30%	20%	30%

Forecast for Thursday 29 Feb 2024

Weather: Area of occasionally heavy rain at first overnight, soon clearing to leave a dry night with some limited clear spells developing. Largely dry through the morning with brighter spells building, which develop scattered afternoon showers, with snow level 600m lowering 400m by late afternoon.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 80% becoming 70% during the afternoon

Low cloud and visibility: By day Good or very good, becoming moderate or poor in rain showers, very poor in snow showers and within cloud with bases occasionally lowering 800m, chiefly as shower push through.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Thursday 29 Feb 2024

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	33/42 SW	33/42 SW	28/36 SW	26/34 SW	24/32 SW	23/30 SW	21/28 SW	18/23 S	19/24 S
600	27/37 SW	28/38 W	24/34 SW	23/31 SW	24/33 SW	21/29 SW	17/23 SW	16/22 S	17/24 S
300	10/29 SW	12/30 W	10/26 SW	11/26 SW	12/27 SW	10/23 SW	7/20 SW	6/16 S	7/18 S
Valley	10/27 SW	11/27 W	11/25 SW	11/23 SW	12/24 SW	11/23 SW	9/19 SW	6/16 SW	7/16 S

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	3/-4	1/-7	-1/-9	-1/-9	-2/-9	-2/-9	-2/-9	-3/-10	-3/-10
600	5/-1	3/-4	1/-6	1/-6	1/-6	1/-5	0/-6	-1/-6	-1/-7
300	7/4	5/1	4/-0	4/-0	4/0	4/0	2/-1	1/-1	0/-3
Valley	8/6	7/4	6/3	6/3	6/3	6/3	5/2	4/2	3/0
Freezing Level*	1300m	900m	700m	700m	600m	600m	600m	500m	400m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Severe wind chill effect from mid-levels.

Forecast for Friday 01 Mar 2024

Weather: Rather cloudy with periods of snow, below around 300-400m rain, which turns heavy at times.

Maximum wind: Variable, mainly easterly, 15-20mph.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 10%

Low cloud and visibility: Good, becoming moderate or poor in rain, very poor in snow and within cloud with bases quite extensive from 600m.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Zero Celsius increasing 8 Celsius during the afternoon
At 800m: Minus 3-4 Celsius
Freezing level: 400-600m

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Wednesday 28 February 2024 Location: Helvellyn summit at 1205 Full report: Despite a summit temperature at midday of exactly zero degrees C, there was a thaw at all levels owing to constant drizzle / rain / precipitation within the low cloud. Significant areas of fellside up to, and including, summit level are now free from snow especially on south facing aspects that have caught the sun (although there was little of that today!) Conversely, there is snow above 700m in sheltered spots and hollows and especially on east and north facing aspects. The snow cover is mostly just a thin layer but there are deeper drifts above 900m at the top of north and east facing slopes. Where undisturbed, the snow was generally wet, soft and thawing. However, there was harder snow and ice on popular routes where it has been compressed and where it had frozen overnight – such as on parts of the summit plateau. Microspikes were useful in these areas. Despite daffodils populating the valleys, the summit temperature at midday was, as mentioned, zero with the windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) a chillier minus 9 degrees C, so full winter clothing (waterproofs – which double as windproofs - , extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment, including a torch, are all essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells. Visibility on the summit plateau was down to around 25m. So a map and compass together with the ability to use them and navigate competently in poor visibility is also essential for anyone heading into the fells. As mentioned, owing to the amount of ice on paths, microspikes are recommended in the current conditions for those going above the snowline. However, with the ground being saturated it would only take a marginal drop in temperature for far more ice to form making microspikes strongly recommended or essential. They should certainly be carried for anyone attempting steep or exposed routes above the snowline such as the Helvellyn Edges. Striding Edge's crest was bare, wet, slippery rock whereas there was far more compressed snow and ice on Swirral. An ice axe is strongly recommended to exit both edges safely. Temperature: minus 0.8 C, Maximum wind speed 28.6 mph, Wind chill: minus 8.8 C, Average wind speed: 20.1 mph

Issued at: 1330 on Wed 28 Feb 2024

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